THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Linking of North-Eastern states with Bangladesh

2164. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering, the prospects that will be derived if Agartala, Tripura be linked with Akhaura of Bangladesh by railway line in respect of likely transportation between North-Eastern States and Kolkata *via* Bangladesh;

(b) the steps contemplated by Government on that line; and

(c) other similar measures that Government propose for extension of Railways to ease transportation in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Survey has been taken up for linking Agartala (India) with Akhaura (Bangladesh). Indian side survey has already been completed.

(c) A number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up in North-Eastern region for rail infrastructure development to meet the demand of traffic.

Linking of ports with freight trains

†2165. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has been contemplating a plan under which all ports could be linked to goods train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the estimates regarding financial resources of the proposed plan are being made and by when this plan is proposed to be commenced?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.